

Suk Chou, China, Aug. 30, 1831.

My dear Eliza.

Your long and truly welcome letter of Aug. 31, 49, was received many months since, and I commenced a reply immediately, but owing to peculiar circumstances was not able to finish it. Very frequently have I promised ^{myself} that Eliza should have a letter, and now this eve. in this far off land have I sat down to carry my purpose into effect. But I know not what to say, nor where to begin. So many of the events of the last 12 years, crowd upon my mind, that I am almost overwhelmed, in the attempt to address you. In the first place, let me beg you to accept my sincere thanks for your kindness in remembering me, and in detailing with so much particularity, so many incidents relative to our, our native village. Oh Eliza! what changed time does produce, and how soon it will have done its work in respect to us. Could your dear mother, or our beloved Emeline speak from the heavenly world their language to us would be. Beware of having your thoughts too much occupied about what pertains to the body, but live for eternity and to benefit the souls of those about you. Could we view things here, as we must when we shall have put off, this earthly tabernacle, how much more vigilant and faithful should we be in our Masters service, doing with our might, whatsoever our hand findeth to do. I received Emeline's last letter in Nov: 1846, while in Canton on our way to this field, and commenced an answer on the day of its reception, but ill health, with other causes, prevented my finishing it.

until the date was so old, I was ashamed to send. Time passed on, and in a few months after our arrival in Fuh Chow, we read a letter from Mr Deake that she had passed the Jordan of death, and become an inhabitant of the world of spirits. I wept long, as I read and re-read that part of his letter, for tho' I knew that she would no more suffer pain and sickness still the tie that bound me to her, had for so many years been gaining strength that I could scarcely exclude the thought, that it was severed. No other earthly friend ever occupied that place in my heart, to her I could go and with the utmost freedom relate my every feeling, while she with equal frankness would open her heart to me. Neither, of us could recall the period when our acquaintance commenced, it was early, and our friendship continued unabated and without interruption. I have some precious letters of hers, which I now more than can prize, they breathe so much of that spirit which so eminently characterised her whole conduct. Miss M. Hough once said to me, I admire Mrs Nobles character! Ah! will she brighten for hers was a combination of uncommon loveliness.

When you reply to this, will you not tell me more of those dear children so early left entire orphans. I think of them daily. Mr Drake informed us, that they were provided with good homes in Springfield.

Perhaps, by this time, you would like to have an introduction into our family, and know just how we look in the eastern world. We, Mr. Peet and myself are 12 twelve years older than we were, when we bade you and our other dear friends, in Middlebury the last farewell. This period of time, has wrought its changes, upon us, in some respects, tho' if we were to meet, I think, you would have no difficulty in recognising us. Mr. Peet has gained much in flesh. It may create a smile, when I tell you

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I think what we use for cooking in one week (7 days) amounts to between
22 and 23 cent. We prefer coal, for this purpose, as our wood is pine, and
would cause much smoke. Our cook-house is below, apart from
the house, we occupy. I have a man to aid me, in this department, for
every thing connected with flour, bread making, pasty, cake &c. I perform
with my own hands. The knowledge of house-keeping acquired under
the eye of my dear, departed grandmother, I find to be of paramount
importance in a heathen land, and I would that nobody would
ever find her way to a foreign field without ^{first} acquainting her-
self with all kinds of domestic work. Those with whom we have
to do, will take the advantage in every possible way, and if the
wife of the Missionary be not well versed in these things, she is
liable to be imposed upon daily. Our living, differs, in many respects,
from yours, we have less variety, but no reason to complain because
of this. We seldom have salt meat of any kind, no cellars, or walk-
in but as Grandfather would say, live from hand to mouth. Food
for the table is bought daily and we require it. Flour is the only thing
we keep by us, and this is sent by the Board. We are highly grati-
fied that we can have Am. flour. Rice we use a good deal,
but do not make bread of it. Fresh pork is excellent here, and we
sometimes meet with tolerable kid, or mutton. Fowls are miserably
poor, and yet the most expensive of any kind of animal food. When
we become light-foot ^{hungry} we purchase ^{one} and are then obliged to
feed it ourselves for two or three days, to render it palatable.
The sweet potato is in market, during the year, the Yam and taro,
at certain seasons. Greens are abundant, also salted fish. The
Chinese make great use of both, but we seldom buy either. Fruits are

Communications since leaving America. Now saying that this is Boston, how die do suddenly as I
away from home, the father and I have felt the affliction heavily. I have not heard of her death through

not productive and very poor. Oranges come in the cold season,
else they would be quite acceptable. I am abounded in excellent
fruit, but China is too far north, to yield the fruits of the tropics.
I used to miss the fruits of Bangkok, exceedingly, but am getting the
better of that. I once thought that I could not do without the Irish
potato, but have not seen one since 1839, and as long a time, has
elapsed since my eye rested upon an apple. But, now, I seldom
think of the productions, of my native land, for we have many, many
temporal mercies, even here in Fuh Chow, more than we are grateful
for. The self denial, we are called upon to practice, does not relate so
much to bodily wants, as to our spiritual necessities.

Thurs. Eve. Sept. 1, 1851. This must be my last date to go as the mail
leaves to-morrow. I have attended Monthly Concert to-day. This
meeting is conducted by each brother missionary in alphabetical
order, and are also the Wd. Sch. and Sab. Meetings. Our female
prayer meeting is held on Fri. Ev. and the last Fri. of each month, is
considered a Mat. Meeting. Only two brothers attend, but it is open to
all, and occasionally others are present. Is the Monthly Concert
well attended in Middletown? I trust, my dear Electa, that your heart
is interested in all that pertains to the progress of the Redeemed Kingdom
throughout the heathen world. This day, I believe, (I have expected) the
one above all others, most deeply interesting to the tried missionary,
who feel, and, I trust, feel in some measure, how impotent are all
of his efforts for the salvation of a dark minded people, without the
influence of the Holy Spirit. But he is encouraged, in the belief, that
through the earnest prayers of God's chosen people in Christian lands
blessings will descend upon those, for whom he has long labored.
The promises of God afford us much comfort as we toil on from

day to day. God has said that the heathen shall be given to his Son for an inheritance, and we know that not one jot or tittle of his word can fail. May we ^{not} confidently hope, that ere this generation shall have passed away, some from among the many millions of China, will have been brought into the fold of the great Shepherd! Such is our belief, and trusting in his promises we will go forward.

Your letter contained much that was interesting respecting the inhabitants of our native village, tho' often I think of the changes my heart is sad to find of my youth has passed into other hands, and my aged Grandparents are no longer numbered among the living. Mrs Youngman, where is she? I should love to see her. Mr. Fitchard, ^{dear} Mr. You inquire if I rec'd. his letter I did, and answered it while in Siam, but most probably never reached them. Please to present to them my very best love, and say that I will try to write again. Mrs Wilcox and Mrs Porter I do not forget, although I never write them. Will you remember me affectionately to both, and say that I love them still. The former, surely, I cannot forget, so long as I remember my own, beloved Grandmother. What a charge Mrs C. Lindsay must have, but, I am glad to hear that she makes so good a mother. Love to her. Mr Chaveland's family and your other near neighbors, Mr Put and myself often call to mind with interest. The houses, with their occupants, upon Wybridge Street, as they were in 1839, are still fresh in mind. But oh what changes... Mrs Leonard in the same house as when she invited us to visit her, and Sarah Miller was, play, one of the company? Remember her ardent attachment to the cause of Christ. She loved the prayer meeting, she loved the sanctuary, her seat was seldom vacant, if ever. She loved the missionary, in foreign lands, and I doubt not, prayed for us. Do not forget to give her our best love, and say that we have great confidence,

in the prayers of our Christian friends. They nerve us on to duty.
You were to walk together towards the bridge changes would continue
to meet our eye, and so on over the entire village. You spoke of
that was Maetha Brewster. Who did she marry for a second husband
about an afflicted woman, her mother must be. I was pained to hear
of Mary. Can Swift's poor health. Has Judge Swift married a
second time? Who occupies the house. Fred. Bates did when he left
Spartanburg? Is Mr. Bowen's family still in Midd. if so, please to remember
me most affectionately to Mrs. Bowen. A few weeks since I recd.
a very kind letter from our dear Mrs. Merrill. Will you thank her
for me, and say that I intend to write soon. From her I learned
of the repeated illness in Dr. Bates' family. Painful indeed, but
I trust all will work together for their spiritual good. Have you a female
school in Midd. and who is the principal. Is College flourishing? How
many students? Have you a pastor over that large church? We are
left sheep without a shepherd. The thought of our beloved Dr. Merrill
having no longer the charge, is painful to me in the extreme. I
could make it seem right. But the Lord reigns, and doeth all things
well. This, and this alone reconciles me.

Now, you spoke of Mrs. Caswell. Will you remember me kindly
to her, also to Mr. and Mrs. Hemmway. For more than six years
we were associated in missionary labors in Siam. Tell Mrs.
G. that I have written her twice since she left Bangkok, but ^{had} had
a line from her. Mrs. Hemmway has written us from Cornwall
giving an account of the revival, which greatly cheered our hearts.
When you see father, tell him we are well, desire much love
and intend writing them soon. Can you give any information
Miss C. Landon. Her name had not been mentioned in any of our

that he weighs (220) two hundred and twenty pounds (ing). He is, comparatively, a stranger to sickness, having scarcely had a sick day since we left London. My own health has been uninterrupted for the last three and a half years. During 1845, and '46 I suffered, more or less, from a chronic disease which greatly reduced my strength, but the change of climate, from Siam to China, has nearly restored me. In size, I am much the same, as when with you. The house we occupy is a comfortable one - there are three principal rooms extending through the length of it, fronts the east, while the west looks out upon the river Min. The room, at the left of the middle room, serves as a sleeping apartment for the whole family, viz. ourselves and our two daughters. Its furniture consists of two bedsteads, three chairs, a stand, and a large trunk for clothing. The room opposite, corresponding to this, we designate, by 'spare room', though we make daily use of it. When a friend calls to pass ^{the night}, it is occupied. In this is a bedstead, wash stand, small wardrobe, four chairs, and a table, over which, hangs a mirror, we brought from home. The middle, or dining room is wider, than either side room, and is used in some way almost constantly. Taking our meals, sitting our middle friends, holding meetings, studying, sewing and many other things. Its furniture, is a table, bamboo couch, six chairs, with two small ones for Jane and Frances, and two Arm. rocking chairs. On the mantel piece stands an Arm. clock, which was presented to us, by a son of the late Dr. Morrison. He was connected with the English Consulate in Fuh Chow when we arrived, but had since returned to England. The furniture, I have mentioned, except ^{a clock} 2. having been made here, and it is quite tolerable. The principal difficulty is, being made of unseasoned wood it swells and comes apart. Our floors

covered with straw matting obtained here. This is necessary,
without it, the large cracks would cause us trouble. We occupy
the second story of the house. This is the practice of missionaries, and
indeed of foreign residents generally, throughout the east, as it is
thought not conducive to health to live near the ground.
We have two verandahs, front and back. At one end of the back
verandah is a bathing room, and one other small apartment. The
former we consider a necessary appendage to a house in this
climate. Prior to five o'clock as light begins to dawn, and may
first visit to the bath room, then Mr. Peet and the children follow in
succession. We consider it a great luxury. Morning is undoubtedly the
best and safest time, as then the system is not in a heated state.
In front, extending from the body of the house, on the right, is a long
narrow room which Mr. Peet used for a study, on the opposite side,
is a pantry. Both of these are excessively warm just now, and indeed,
for nearly two thirds of the year. Our winter months are chilly, but
no more severe. We have no snow nor ice, except on the very summit
of the mountains. Mr. Peet studied without a fire the whole of last winter.
But the chilly air, of Jan. Feb. March and April, effects me very much.
I find as warm clothing necessary here as at home. Our houses
are not so well built, and the black wind finds its way through
the cracks and crevices. The climate of Siam, I suppose, produced
such a change in my system, that I cannot endure cold weather
so well as when in America. I infer this from the fact, that the other
ladies here bear the winter months better than myself.
Our fire places are built for burning coal, but we use wood, as
it is much cheaper. Fuel costs less in China than with you.